

House Resolution 1088

By: Representative Dukes of the 150th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the first students to integrate the Baker County schools; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the road to racial equality in Georgia is paved by the heroic contributions of
3 countless individuals willing to take a stand for freedom and justice even in the face of
4 bigotry and intimidation; and

5 WHEREAS, the integration of Baker County schools began in 1965 thanks to the following
6 students of East Baker High School and East Baker Elementary School: Ann Lebern Benton,
7 Sandra Jones, Henry E. Williams, Rubertha Hall, Deborah Walker, C. S. Jackson, Roosevelt
8 Williams, Patricia James, Eddie Williams, Herman Williams, Carrie Miller-Drake, Marvin
9 Miller, Nathaniel Holt, Betty Broadway, Edward Oliver, Annie Benton-Wright, Diane
10 Cowart, Betty L. Williams, Artricia Hawkins-Batten, Missouri Cowart-Edward, Sandra Coe,
11 Betty Blackshear, and Vernice Lofton; and

12 WHEREAS, although some of them were perhaps too young at the time to fully appreciate
13 the significance of their actions, these individuals' entrance into previously segregated
14 schools was a courageous and imperative step toward a more equal society, and all of these
15 pioneers of liberty have rendered to their communities a priceless service and a lasting
16 legacy; and

17 WHEREAS, in celebration of their monumental accomplishment, the East Baker Historical
18 Society will be honoring this distinguished group of individuals; and

19 WHEREAS, considering the enormous debt Georgians of all colors owe to trailblazers such
20 as these students who were a part of the integration of Baker County schools, it is abundantly
21 fitting and proper for this body to honor this remarkable group of patriots.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body join together in commending the first students to integrate Baker
3 County schools and express their eternal gratitude for the courage and perseverance of these
4 outstanding citizens.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the above named
7 individuals.